

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY SSM/E:J WALLEN:MA  
APPROVED BY SSM:C W KONTOS  
SSM:J T MCANDREW

-----120241 281922Z /46

P 281658Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: POWER GENERATORS FOR BASE CAMP

REF: A. SINAI 1466, B. 1461

1. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PRIMARY POWER GENERATORS FOR THE SFM BASE CAMP CONTINUE TO HAVE FREQUENT MAJOR FAILURES. FORTUNATELY, OUR EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RESERVE CAPACITY AND CATERPILLAR'S RAPID AND CONTINUED REPAIR, UNDER WARRANTY, HAVE PREVENTED SERIOUS OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS.

2. SOME OF THE POWER PLANT FAILURES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PERSONNEL IN THE ENGINEERING DIVISION OF CATERPILLAR. THEY BELIEVE THE SFM IS EXPERIENCING UNUSUALLY HIGH FAILURE RATES FOR THIS TYPE OF ENGINE, AND THEY PROMISED TO PROVIDE FAILURE STATISTICS ON OTHER INSTALLATIONS FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES. IF WE FIND THAT OUR EQUIPMENT FAILURES ARE ABNORMALLY HIGH WE WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE THE BASIC REASONS FOR THESE FAILURES AND EITHER CHANGE EQUIPMENT OR  
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OPERATING PROCEDURES, OR BOTH.

3. WITH REGARD TO PARA 4 OF REFTTEL B, NUMBER FOUR GENERATOR IS INTENDED AS AN EMERGENCY BACKUP FOR BASE CAMP DURING PRIMARY POWER FAILURE. THE BASE CAMP SWITCHGEAR IS DESIGNED SO THAT SELECTED FACILITIES CAN BE BROUGHT ON LINE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. THE COMOPS BUILDING CAN

NORMALLY BE OPERATED FROM THE 250 KW GENERATOR, AND WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NOT POWERED BY THIS UNIT DURING THE PRIMARY POWER FAILURE ON JULY 25. REQUEST YOU INVESTIGATE THE REASON FOR LACK OF POWER IN COMOPS TO SEE IF PROBLEM WAS DUE TO OPERATING PROCEDURE OR EQUIPMENT FAILURE.

4. WITH REGARD TO PARA FIVE OF REFTTEL B, IF NECESSARY, THE COMOPS BUILDING CAN BE POWERED FROM THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GENERATOR WITHOUT COMPROMISING SECURITY. THE PRIMARY UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCE IS THAT, IN A REAL EMERGENCY, THE OPERATING TIME FROM THE EMERGENCY FUEL SUPPLY WOULD BE LESS DUE TO INCREASED ELECTRICAL LOAD ON THE GENERATOR.

5. IF GENERATOR NUMBER FOUR AND ASSOCIATED SWITCHGEAR ARE FUNCTIONING ACCORDING TO DESIGN, WE BELIEVE IT WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE EMERGENCY POWER FOR COMOPS WITHOUT CONNECTING TO THE GENERATOR RESERVED FOR EMERGENCY USG COMMUNICATIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS POINT AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE INVESTIGATION REQUESTED IN PARA THREE ABOVE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Drafter:** J WALLEN:MA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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